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NAVY, NGA, DIA, NSA  
Reviews Completed

OP IMMED  
DE WTE #2648 1402143  
O 202146Z MAY 75  
FM THE SITUATION ROOM/TOHAK 25//

TO COMPERT/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

~~T O P S E C R E T~~ SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD  
VIA BLACK PATCH WH50854

MAY 20, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

25X1

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

25X1

SOVIET SHIP MOVEMENTS: THE TWO KANIN-CLASS GUIDED-MISSILE  
DESTROYERS THAT MADE THE MAY 12 TO 17 PORT CALL AT BOSTON  
RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE ARMED REPLENISHMENT OILER DNESTRA  
SOUTHEAST OF THAT CITY, MOST LIKELY REFUELED, AND THEN COM-  
MENCED A SOUTHERLY TRANSIT ALONG THE U.S. EAST COAST PROBABLY

\*\*\*\*\* WHSR COMMENT \*\*\*\*\*

SECFL

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EN ROUTE TO CUBA INSTEAD OF RETURNING DIRECTLY TO NORTHERN FLEET WATERS. THIS WOULD MAKE THE 14TH SOVIET NAVAL DEPLOYMENT TO THE ISLAND SINCE 1969.

SOVIET TROOP ROTATIONS: MOSCOW CARRIED OUT THE AIR PORTION OF THE SEMIANNUAL ROTATION OF SOVIET TROOPS IN EASTERN EUROPE BETWEEN MAY 3 AND 17. ABOUT 125,000 PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED, AND THE BULK OF THESE WERE TRANSPORTED BY CIVIL AIRCRAFT IN KEEPING WITH THE TREND IN RECENT YEARS. THIS SPRING, 131 AIRCRAFT MADE 825 ROUND-TRIP FLIGHTS. THAT TOTAL IS EQUAL TO THE NUMBER NOTED LAST NOVEMBER, BUT LARGER CAPACITY TRANSPORTS WERE USED THIS TIME. THIS COMPARES WITH APPROXIMATELY 89,000 LAST FALL. INITIAL ANALYSIS ALSO INDICATES THAT ROUTINE AEROFLOT OPERATIONS WERE NOT AFFECTED, EVEN THOUGH A LARGE NUMBER OF TRANSPORTS MAY VISIT FORWARD AREAS MILITARY AIRFIELDS WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO PICK UP STRAGGLERS.

SOVIET SAMs IN LIBYA: TRIPOLI HAS ITS OWN SOVIET SA-2 SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES. THREE COMPLETE SA-2 LAUNCH BATTALIONS PLUS A TECHNICAL SUPPORT BATTALION WERE SEEN IN SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY [REDACTED] IN A SAM SUPPORT FACILITY NEAR TRIPOLI. THE IDENTIFICATION OF SIX SA-2 TRANSPORTERS AT A CAMP NEAR BENGHAZI IN PHOTOGRAPHY [REDACTED] SUGGESTS THAT ANOTHER SA-2 UNIT ALSO IS IN THE AREA. AFTER THE EGYPTIANS WITHDREW THEIR SAMs FROM LIBYA DURING THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR, TRIPOLI BEGAN BUYING SAMs FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND FRANCE. IN ADDITION TO THE SA-2s, TRIPOLI HAS SOVIET SA-3s, SA-6s, AND SA-7s AND THE FRENCH LOW-ALTITUDE CROTALE.

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[REDACTED] MOSCOW MAY SUPPLY EQUIPMENT FOR AT LEAST 15 LAUNCHING SITES. SEVENTY-FIVE INDIAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WERE SENT TO THE USSR FOR A FOUR-MONTH TRAINING COURSE ON THE MISSILE SYSTEM IN APRIL, 1974. THIS CONTINGENT WILL QUITE LIKELY SERVE AS AN INSTRUCTOR CADRE.

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[REDACTED] AND THE BRITISH TIGERCAT MOBILE SAM SYSTEM ASSIGNED TO THE ARMY FOR BATTLEFIELD DEPLOYMENT. DURING SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER GRECHKO'S FEBRUARY VISIT, AN ACCORD IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SIGNED TO PROVIDE SA-6 AND SA-7 MISSILES WHICH COULD BE DELIVERED WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.

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## THE WASHINGTON-STAR NEWS

TAMMY ARBUCKLE WRITES THAT THE UNITED STATES ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL HAVE TO PULL OUT SOME OR ALL OF ITS 330 REMAINING PERSONNEL FROM VIENTIANE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AND PHASE OUT MANY OF ITS PROGRAMS, AS THE LAO COMMUNISTS PROCEED WITH THEIR BLOODLESS TAKEOVER. SOURCES CLOSE TO PREMIER SOUVANNA PHOUMA SAY HIS POLICY IS TO GIVE WAY TO THE COMMUNISTS BEFORE VIOLENCE CAN OCCUR WHILE MAINTAINING A NEUTRALIST PRESENCE IN THE CABINET TO SOFTEN COMMUNIST POLICIES. AMERICANS PROBABLY WILL LEAVE QUIETLY AT LAO GOVERNMENT REQUEST, POSSIBLY ONLY IN A TRICKLE EACH DAY AS THE U.S. MISSION SCALES DOWN. DIPLOMATS EXPECT THAT FAIRLY SOON SOUVANNA PHOUMA WILL STEP DOWN FROM HIS 13-YEAR-OLD STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT, TURNING IT OVER TO HIS PROCOMMUNIST HALF-BROTHER, PRINCE SOUPHAN-DOUVONG, WHO WILL BE THE NEW PREMIER. AS THE U.S. PRESENCE LESSENS, OFFICIALS SAY PRIVATELY THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO "FUDGE" THE ISSUE OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN LONG CHENG IF QUERIED BY THE PRESS, AND THE U.S. EMBASSY REFUSES TO MAKE ANY FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO VISIT LONG CHENG.

MARY MCGRORY BELIEVES THAT BEFORE ANY MORE CHAMPAGNE IS UNCORKED, IT MIGHT BE WELL TO STOP AND CONSIDER THAT WE ARE CELEBRATING IN THE RESCUE OF THE MAYAGUEZ, A NOTION AS FALSE AS THE FIRST CASUALTY REPORTS TO COME OUT OF THE AFFAIR. LITTLE EFFORT WAS MADE TO FIND OUT WHAT THE CAMBODIANS HAD IN MIND. DIPLOMACY WAS GIVEN A PERFUNCTORY RUN-THROUGH BEFORE THE USUAL ACTION FOR THAT PART OF THE WORLD -- HASTY, STEALTHY, AND VIOLENT -- WAS DECIDED ON. YOU, IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED, HAD A MESSAGE HANDED TO YOU THROUGH A SHOWER CURTAIN AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT ANNOUNCING THE CAMBODIANS WOULD GIVE UP THE SHIP. INSTEAD OF SEIZING ON THIS GOOD NEWS, YOU WERE QUICK TO NOTE THAT THE CAMBODIANS HAD NOT MENTIONED THE CREW. THE MARINE ASSAULT HAD IN ANY CASE BEGUN AND COULD NOT BE CALLED OFF. APPARENTLY, THE IDEA OF CANCELING THE PUNITIVE, POST-RESCUE BOMBING RAID ON THE MAINLAND NEVER CROSSED ANYBODY'S MIND. THE ONE NOVEL ASPECT OF THE WHOLE SITUATION IS THAT UNNUMBERED AMERICANS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED OVER AN EPISODE THAT IS COMMON IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE -- THE SEIZURE OF AN AMERICAN SHIP IN FOREIGN WATERS. THE MOST DEPRESSING ASPECT TO THE NONCELEBRANTS IS THE REALIZATION THAT WHAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION LEARNED FROM VIETNAM CAN BE SUMMED UP IN THREE WORDS: DO IT AGAIN.

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MARTIN F. NOLAN QUESTIONS PRESIDENTIAL CREDIBILITY IN OPERATION MAYAGUEZ AND WRITES THAT THE PAGEANTRY OF CRISIS-AND-CREDIBILITY MOVED ALMOST MOCKINGLY. CONGRESS WAS ELABORATELY "INFORMED," BUT NOT CONSULTED, SUPERNUMERIES IN THE DRAMA. THE KHMER ROUGE WAS PUFFED UP IN DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE TO THE SIZE OF A MAJOR WORLD POWER. THE CAMBODIAN NAVY LOOKED MENACING IN THE DISPATCHES. WE KNOW THE CRISIS IS OVER ONLY WHEN HIS PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHER RELEASES TO THE NEWSPAPERS OFFICIAL TABLEAUX OF SELF-ASSURANCE: THE PRESIDENT AND HIS FELLOW CRISIS-MANAGERS CHORTLING VICTORIOUSLY AROUND THE AMERICAN THRONE ROOM, THE OVAL OFFICE. DOUBT, QUESTIONS, AND SKEPTICISM WILL BE TREATED AS HARSHLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF "VICTORY" AS THEY WERE A DECADE AGO IN THE LONG AND BLOODY PROCESS OF DEFEAT IN VIETNAM. NO ONE SHOULD BE SURPRISED TO HEAR CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS CALLED "NERVOUS NELLIES." MAYBE THE MAYAGUEZ BEARS NO RESEMBLANCE TO WHAT COMMUNIST RHETORIC CALLS A "PROVOCATION" AND WHAT THE TRADITIONALLY SKEPTICAL AMERICAN FRAME OF MIND WOULD CALL A SET-UP. MAYBE.

CROSBY NOYES ARGUES THAT WE HAVE RICHLY EARNED THE CONTEMPT REFLECTED IN THE CAMBODIAN SEIZURE OF THE MAYAGUEZ. THOSE WHO DECIDED TO SEIZE THE MAYAGUEZ DO KNOW THAT UNDER THE MOST EXTREME PROVOCATION OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT RESPONDED TO DEFEND ITS INTERESTS OR ITS ALLIES. THE STAR DOUBTS THAT THE CAMBODIANS -- OR ANYONE ELSE -- HAVE LEARNED MUCH OF A LESSON FROM ALL THIS. THE STAR SUSPECTS THAT THEY ARE, IF ANYTHING, MORE HOPELESSLY PERPLEXED THAN EVER ABOUT THE INSCRUTABLE WAY OF AMERICANS. THE INCIDENT WILL NOT CHANGE BASIC ATTITUDES IN THE WORLD ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, SIMPLY BECAUSE IT HAS NOT CHANGED BASIC ATTITUDES IN THE UNITED STATES ITSELF. INDEED, THE GROTESQUE DISPROPORTION BETWEEN OUR PERFORMANCE IN THIS CASE AND OUR PERFORMANCE OVER THE PRECEDING MONTHS AND YEARS WILL INCREASE DOUBTS ABOUT OUR BASIC STABILITY AS A NATION. GIVEN OUR PAST PERFORMANCE, THE CAMBODIANS -- PERHAPS THE WORLD -- WERE SURPRISED. EVEN SOME OF US WERE SURPRISED. BUT WE ARE NOT DRAWING ANY LARGE CONCLUSIONS AS A RESULT OF IT.

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